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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/811,404	03/20/2001	Atsushi Nakamura	500.39920X00	4100

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, VAN H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2126

DATE MAILED: 07/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/811,404

Applicant(s)

NAKAMURA ET AL.

Examiner

VAN H NGUYEN

Art Unit

2126

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 March 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/20/01.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-11 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1, 3, 5, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

A. The phrase "second application" (claim 1, lines 8-9) is indefinite.

B. The phrase "the present work item" (claim 5, lines 10-11) lacks antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by **Smith et al.** (U.S. 6,289, 391).

6. As to claim 9, Smith teaches the invention as claimed including a program for operating a workflow server program and an application program in relation to each other (abstract), wherein:

the program grasps an operation status of the application program; and the program transmits status information to the workflow server program in response to the operation status (col.2, lines 60-67; col.4, line 64-col.5, line 9; and col.13, line 40-col.14, line 9).

7. As to claim 10, Smith teaches the operation status includes at least any one of: a status under which the program initiates the application program; a status under which the program transmits the process data to the application program; and a status under which the program acquires the data about the process result from the application program (col.13, line 40-col.14, line 9).

8. As to claim 11, Smith teaches the operation information includes at least any one of a work ready status, a work performing status, and a work completed status (col.2, lines 60-67).

9. As to claim 1, Smith teaches the invention as claimed including a program control system for controlling an execution of a second application by employing an execution result of a first application (abstract), comprising:

a converting unit for converting the execution result of the first application in order that the execution result of the first application is used by the second application(abstract; col.2, lines 60-67; col.13, line 40-col.14, line 4; and col.14, lines 41-50); and

a program executing unit for executing second application by employing the converted execution result (col.13, line 40-col.14, line 9; and col.14, lines 51-54).

10. As to claim 3, Smith teaches both the means for operating the converting program and the means for operating the second application are controlled by a workflow management program operable in response to the end of the execution of the first application (col.2, lines 46-67).

11. As to claim 5, Smith teaches the invention as claimed including a program for operating a workflow server program and an application program in relation to each other (abstract), wherein:

the program receives data from the workflow server program so as to initiate the application program; the program transmits the received data to the initiated application program (col.2, lines 60-67; and col.13, lines 40-66); and

the program transmits a status change request to the workflow server in order to transit the present work item to a next work item (col.10, lines 21-53).

12. As to claim 6, Smith teaches the program contains translator mapping information every work item processed in a workflow system for processing a series of work items in relation thereto, the translator mapping information being related to both a format of the data received from the workflow server program and a format of the data transmitted to the application program; the program discriminates control data from data which should be processed by the application program, the control data being contained in the received data and being employed in the workflow server; the program extracts the data which should be processed by the application program; and the program converts the extracted data based upon the translator mapping

information to transmit the converted data to the application program (col.3, lines 21-30; and col.13, line 40-col.14, line 9).

13. As to claims 7 and 8, note the rejections of claims 5 and 6 above.

14. As to claim 2, the rejection of claim 1 above is incorporated herein in full. Additionally, Smith further teaches means for operating the second application in response to an end of the execution of the first application (col.2, lines 46-59).

15. As to claim 4, note the rejection of claim 2 above.

Conclusion

16. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Witchel et al. (U.S. 6748584) discloses "Method for determining the degree to which changed code has been exercised."

- Hibi (U.S. 6591414) discloses "Binary program conversion apparatus, binary program conversion method and program recording medium."

- Nagai et al. (U.S. 6275977) discloses "Application cooperation method and apparatus."

- Hale et al. (U.S. 6141697) discloses "System and method for performing external procedure calls in heterogeneous computer systems utilizing program stacks."

- Sagawa et al. (U.S. 5963731) discloses "Method of assisting execution of plural simulation programs for coupled simulation."


17. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to VAN H NGUYEN whose telephone number is (703) 306-5971. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:30AM - 6:00PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternative Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Meng-Ai An can be reached on (703) 305-9678.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

VHN


ST. JOHN COURTENAY III
PRIMARY EXAMINER